

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for facilitating the delivery of water to a plurality of cage level barrier-type cages, for housing animals for an animal study, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of cage level barrier-type cages for an animal study at a laboratory facility site;~~and~~

providing a bag filling apparatus at a clean side of the laboratory facility site;

filling a plurality of bags with water at the clean side;

sealing the bags of water at the clean side for use in the cage level barrier-type cages; and

inserting a valve into the sealed bags of water for dispensing water to one or more animals housed in said cages.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing bags to be filled with water to the laboratory facility site.

3-7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the bag filling apparatus is capable of providing additives to the water.

9-10. (canceled)

11. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a disposable fluid valve for use with one of the sealed bags of water.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the disposable fluid valve is formed of plastic.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing a disposable fluid delivery valve assembly for use with one of the sealed bags of water, the valve assembly comprising:

an upper member having a fluid channel defined therethrough; and

a base having a flange member and a base fluid channel defined therethrough, wherein the base is designed to be matingly coupled to the upper member,

wherein the fluid delivery valve assembly is adapted to be coupled to the fluid bag to facilitate the providing of the water to a cage level barrier-type cage.

14. (currently amended) A method for facilitating the delivery of water to a plurality of cage level barrier-type cages disposed at a laboratory facility site, for housing animals for an animal study, the method comprising:

providing bag filling apparatus at a clean side of a laboratory facility site;

filling a plurality of bags with water at the clean side;

sealing the bags of water at the clean side; and

inserting a valve into the sealed bags of water for dispensing water to one or more animals housed in cage level barrier-type cages.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising providing bags to be filled with water to the laboratory facility site.

16. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising providing a disposable fluid valve for use with one of the sealed bags of water.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the disposable fluid valve is formed of plastic.

18. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising providing a ventilated rack and cage system comprising a plurality of cage level barrier-type cages for placement at the laboratory facility site.

19. (canceled)

20. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising providing a conveyor system at the clean side of the laboratory washroom at the laboratory facility site for transporting the sealed water bags.

21. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising providing one or more totes for storing and transporting the sealed water bags.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, further comprising providing a tote cart for transporting a plurality of the totes from the clean side of the washroom to a laboratory room containing the cage level barrier-type cages.

23. (original) The method of claim 22, further comprising providing a tote conveyor platform for transporting the totes with sealed water bags from the conveyor system to the tote cart.

24. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising providing a compacting apparatus for compacting the sealed water bags after they are removed from the cage level barrier-type cages.

25-35. (canceled)

36. (currently amended) A system for facilitating the delivery of water to a plurality of cage level barrier-type cages disposed at a laboratory facility site, for housing animals for an animal study, the system comprising:

a bag filling apparatus constructed and arranged to provide filled bags of water at a clean side of a laboratory facility site;

wherein the bags of water are constructed and designed to be sealed and used in cage level barrier-type cages; and

a plurality of valves for insertion into the bags of water for dispensing water to one or more animals housed in the cages.

37. (previously presented) The system of claim 36, further comprising bags to be filled with water that are provided to the laboratory facility site.

38. (original) The system of claim 36, further comprising a disposable fluid valve provided at the laboratory facility site for use with one of the sealed bags of water.

39. (original) The system of claim 38, wherein the disposable fluid valve is formed of plastic.

40. (original) The system of claim 36, further comprising a ventilated rack and cage system comprising a plurality of cage level barrier-type cages for placement at the laboratory facility site.

41. (canceled)

42. (original) The system of claim 36, further comprising a conveyor system for placement at the clean side of the laboratory washroom at the laboratory facility site for transporting the sealed water bags.

43. (original) The system of claim 36, further comprising one or more totes for storing and transporting the sealed water bags.

44. (original) The system of claim 43, further comprising a tote cart for transporting a plurality of the totes from the clean side of the washroom to a laboratory room containing the cage level barrier-type cages.

45. (original) The method of claim 44, further comprising providing a tote conveyor platform for transporting the sealed water bags from the conveyor system to the tote cart.

46. (original) The system of claim 36, further comprising a compacting apparatus for compacting the sealed water bags after they are removed from the cage level barrier-type cages.

47-54. (canceled)